Not insignificant

also is the catch of seals (Phoca sivirica), which are preserved in large 225
numbers in Lake Baykal.

Of much greater importance, however, is the fishing in the 226
rest of the Far Eastern region. For the economy of the natives it not uncommonly constitutes the sole or at least the principal source of food. But the Russian settler, too, would not like to miss fish on his menu. Thus everywhere in the Far Eastern region where even a brook extends through the land we find the occupants occupying themselves with supplementing their food needs by fishing. In this the historical development also plays a certain role, for the first Russian settlers found one of the principal sources of food in catching fish. And nature has blessed the entire area with lakes and rives rich in fish. In addition there is the fact that off the entire coast of the Far Eastern region there stretch seas which are likewise exceedingly rich in fish and which belong to the most important fishing grounds on the earth. Year after year innumerable types of salmon in vast numbers come from the sea for the spawning period and go up the rivers and often far into the land, where men wait for them in order to provide nourishment for themselves and for their animals, not only temporarily but also often for the entire year. For the bulk of the coast of the north fishing constitutes /134/ absolutely the sole basis of existence for man. If the coastal strip far into the north is inhabited, this is above all due to the sea and its abundance of fish and sea animals.

The wealth of fish and sea animals of all kinds in the peripheral 228
seas has, through fishing for self-supply by the population on the coast and inland, led to the development of industrially run coastal and high sea fishing, which has become the leading branch of the economy in the Far Eastern region. Through the creation of a state fishing fleet and the equipment of this fleet with modern motorboats, trawlers, and special ships for catching crabs/shrimp and whales, the Far Eastern region by 1938 had won first place within the Soviet Union in terms of its catch. More than a fourth of the total catch of fish and of the canned fish goods in the Soviet Union comes from the Far East.

Catch of Fish in the Far Eastern Region

1913	107,330 tons
1928	161,820 tons
1932	346,800 tons
1937	404,800 tons

Bureya Mountain Range the deciduous trees disappear as the height increases, and on the mountain range itself and in the Bureya Highland Siberian taiga with Okhotsk strains penetrates generally far toward the south. In the Amur region itself the moderating influence from the south ends with the closed off plain, the climatic conditions become more unfavorable, cooler, and damper; the Sea of Okhotsk dominates here. The meadow steppes change into treeless moss swamps; coniferous forests of an Okhotsk stamp cover the hills, on which here and there the first appearances of high moor formations can be determined. These are signs, which are typical of the northern coastal mountain landscapes. This region already is reckoned as being such a landscape, and it is for this reason that this area along with the drainage area of the Uda will be treated as an independent region.

In the Khabarovsk region the Amur plain is settled over a large area. Wheat, barley, and rye are cultivated here still with good harvests, but toward the north potatoes and vegetables take up an increasing percentage of the land cultivated, since the yield of the grain harvests becomes inferior as a consequence of the dampness of the ground. With sufficient drainage, wide areas could still be won here for the cultivation of grain. Instead the excellent natural meadows serve for breeding of livestock. Toward the north the density of the population decreases rapidly, and approximately from the Mukhen, a right tributary, on, settlement is limited to the river banks on which small villages or individual settlements of Russians or natives are to be encountered at a distance of 10 to 20 kilometers from one another. The settlements for the most part lie on the right bank of the Amur, which is the higher bank. The /258/ left side with its unpredictable high waters is too dangerous for man. In favorable spots larger localities have also developed, such as Troitskoye with its approximately 4,000 inhabitants. In general the settlements are small. The Russian villages can be recognized by their wooden houses. The Gilyak, Goldi, and also here and there Chinese and Koreans, on the other hand, in many cases still occupy mud huts, which are built on the pattern of the Chinese fang-tze. Along with the population, agriculture decreases toward the north. Fishing comes more and more into the foreground, until it becomes the principal occupation on the lower Amur. Here again settlements pile up. According to the state organization of the catching of fish, these settlements are specialized for this trade, and they have heavy immigration. Thus the population grows quickly here, but it is dependent on imports for supplies. All the other areas which

The harbor has in very recent times been expanded and provided with modern loading equipment. Since the Tatar Sound is very shallow, this equipment had to be moved very far out into the sea. To be mentioned in second place is Okha (approximately 25,000 inhabitants), the most important center of the oil region on the northeastern coast. During the last war the city got a sea harbor of its own, which is supposed to be usable throughout the entire year. South of Okha lies Ekhabi, which has often been mentioned recently for its rising oil production. A railroad and an oil pipe lead from Okha to the oil harbor of Moskal'vo, which lies on the eastern side of Baykal Bay in the northern part of the island. Furthermore, in the past few years there have been established along the coast numerous, permanently inhabited fishing bases, which give life to the entire picture along the coastal strip. The largest part of the interior is still untouched and given over even today to the native population and their primitive economy.

In southern Sakhalin (Karafuto), which was formerly Japanese, the natural landscapes continue as they have already been generally described. The western mountain range, which here has heights of up to 1,375 meters, forms the backbone and stretches to the south beyond the 46th latitude, while the eastern mountain range already ends north of the 49th /282/ latitude. The Poronay Valley ends even before that after it has spread out to a width of 30 kilometers.

As in northern Sakhalin, so here, too, the largest part of the land is covered with primeval forests, which consist of the same type of trees as in the north, only here the percentage of deciduous trees is larger and increases especially on the lower slopes and last spurs of the western mountain range. Even though the climatic conditions became somewhat milder with the southern location, tundra-like moss steppes appear here also. Reindeer breeding is still pursued today by the native population, the Orok and the Tungus.

The population of southern Sakhalin was 332,000 in 1936 and 412,000 in 1940; the increase can be traced for the most part to immigration from Japan. Of the old, native peoples scarcely 2,000 existed; of these the Ainu, who number 1,500, constitute the main part. The rest is divided among Gilyak, Orok, and other Tungus tribes.

The economic importance of southern Sakhalin lies in the wood supply of its forests, in its coal deposits, and in the wealth of fish in the waters near the coast. The Japanese have done much for the economic development of the land and also have attained much. Above all they are to be thanked for the opening up of the land through

means of transportation. They have built 653.2 kilometers of railroad lines, and in addition they have improved the land roads, too, so that they can be traveled regularly by buses. However, this opening up to traffic has generally been limited to the regions near the coast and to the most southerly part of the island, while the greatest part of the interior, as in northern Sakhalin, remained left to itself. Now the most important coal deposits also lie not far from the coast, and the Japanese succeeded in bringing production in a large number of mines up to approximately two million tons by the beginning of the last war. Of this 500,000 tons could be exported to Japan. The remainder was used in Sakhalin, above all in the wood industry, which had been developed on a large scale by the Japanese. Since 1929 the Japanese had gone about, in a planned fashion, the building up of a cellulose and paper industry in southern Sakhalin, in order to be able to supply their home economy with these products. At the end, just before the outbreak of war, there were eleven large cellulose and paper factories in the country, and their production constituted almost 90 percent of the industrial production of southern Sakhalin. The share of these factories in the total production of Karafuto was around 60 percent. In addition, southern Sakhalin delivered large quantities of wood as cut wood and raw lumber. Southern Sakhalin was also very important to Japan as a base for fishing, which produced rich surpluses. However, in one thing the Japanese did not succeed: the securing of food for the population from the island itself. In this particular Sakhalin was an importing region, although the Japanese made every effort to expand agriculture and the breeding of livestock.

/283/ After the evacuation of the Japanese and the taking over of southern Sakhalin by the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union has striven to fill the land with people and to get the economy's production going again. On this there are numerous reports, which tell especially of the founding of kolkhoz and sovkhoz. In addition there are constant reports on the establishment of fishing stations and of fish-processing central stations, but there are only a very few reports on the taking over of coal mines and of getting them into production. There is little information on the installations of the wood industry, although it is to be assumed that the Soviet Union has above all laid value on getting the industrial plants into production, and apparently, too, everything has been done so that these plants could take up their production again.

when the Kamchadal, Eskimo 101 563 [226]

salmon run begins, festivals of joy and work begin for young and old. As a rule the fish are caught in fixed traps, which are drawn across the river so that the way is barred for the fish as they go upstream. The fish press together in great masses in front of this weir and are caught with simple scoop nets. The common drying place is never [251] empty, for it is important to preserve as many fish as possible for the entire year by drying them. In addition, an older method is still used occasionally: the fish are buried in the earth and there becomes sour; hence there is a kind of fish silo from which fish can be fetched during the winter as needed. A penetrating fish smell fills the entire settlement, and there is no end to eating during the catching season. It is not too much to say that the Kamchadal live on fish and tea. The [231] dog, the most important domestic animal and beast of burden for all sedentary native northeast Siberians, is also fed on fish. The number of dogs is considered as the mark of wealth. There are families which have 200 to 300 dogs, which are housed in a pen near the house and fill the entire region with their hoarse barking. It is inadvisable for strangers to go near these half-wild animals. At present the horse is spreading more and more and is beginning to displace the dog as the beast of burden. Through the state organization of fishing and the introduction of modern methods, large sections of the Koryak have also been incorporated and placed in a new order. Many have also turned to agriculture and cattle-breeding.

/111/ The Asiatic Eskimo live on the banks of Bering Strait and occupy 17 villages with approximately 1,600 people. They ex- [174] tended much further formerly; and it is for this reason that there are Eskimo names for places now occupied by Maritime Chukchee. The displacement of the Eskimo must have been done simply by force, for the sagas of the Chukchee are filled with reports of hard battles with the Eskimo, battles which, however, ended long before the entrance of the Russians. Today the two peoples live harmoniously beside one another in separate villages. The Asiatic Eskimo differ from their relatives in Alaska in their speech but culturally they form a unit with them. With their life completely directed toward the sea, they seldom go into the interior of the land; for such occasions they use dog sleds. On the Commander Islands live approximately 500 Aleut, who, according to their language, are related to the Eskimo. They, too, live completely from catching sea animals, since the islands offer them only birds.

As has already been said, the Buryat Mongols have a cultural

231
433 the young reindeer are processed for leather and as wild leather (chamois leather) are a product in demand for export.

Hunting

224 The valuable fur-bearing animals, once so numerous, have almost completely disappeared from the settled areas and have withdrawn into the inaccessible wastelands. And, nevertheless, the Far Eastern region with its vast, wild forests is still, even today, a grateful empire of hunters. Approximately a third of the furs acquired in the Soviet Union are won in the Far East. Transbaykal is not so active in this. Squirrels and foxes provide the bulk of the skins ; the sable has been completely exterminated in wide stretches of land and is now only rarely encountered. In the tundra region the Polar fox is the most important animal hunted. /133/ The number of large wild animals has also been heavily decimated by the earlier rapacious hunting. The spotted stag /Fleckenhirsch/, sought because of its "Panten" /unhardened antlers/ and formerly very numerous in the Amur and Ussuri region, occurs now only very rarely in the open hunting ground and is kept today only in animal parks in the Sikhote-Alin'; of these seven are known with several thousand stags. For the protection of the plant and animal world rather large areas in the Sikhote-Alin', on Kamchatka, and on Lake Baykal have been declared nature protection areas.

Hunting for fur-bearing animals is organized by the state and is done from numerous "bases, " where the hunter receives not only his hunting equipment but also other necessities of life, and then goes out to hunt in cadres. In their hunting, these state hunters have to follow fixed instructions, varying from place to place, for the sparing and preservation of the wild life. At the end of the hunting period the skins are delivered to the bases, and the hunter is paid according to his output.

Fishing and Hunting of Sea Animals

•226 In Transbaykal, which lies inland, fishing has only a subordinate role. Apart from small lakes, which are, however, rich in fish, the fishing practised professionally is concentrated on Lake Baykal. Its outstanding fish is the omul (Coregonus omul Pall.), a type of salmon, [255] whose spawn is bred and set out. Some fish canning factories in various ooo localities on the coast process the catch not used locally. Not insignicant